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<div>(30)</div> <div>Priority:</div> <div>03.01.2000</div> <div>US 476143</div>	<div>(74)</div> <div>Representative:</div> <div>Manitz, Finsterwald & Partner Gbr</div> <div>Postfach 31 02 20</div> <div>80102 München (DE)</div>
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(54)

A microcontrolled backlit keypad assembly and method for a gaming machine

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A keypad assembly and method for use with a gaming machine including a keypad having a plurality of keys to input data, and a plurality of illumination devices operably coupled to a corresponding key for inde-

pendent illumination thereof. A microcontroller device is coupled to the plurality of illumination devices for illumination thereof in a manner visually communicating information relating to a game accessible by the gaming machine.

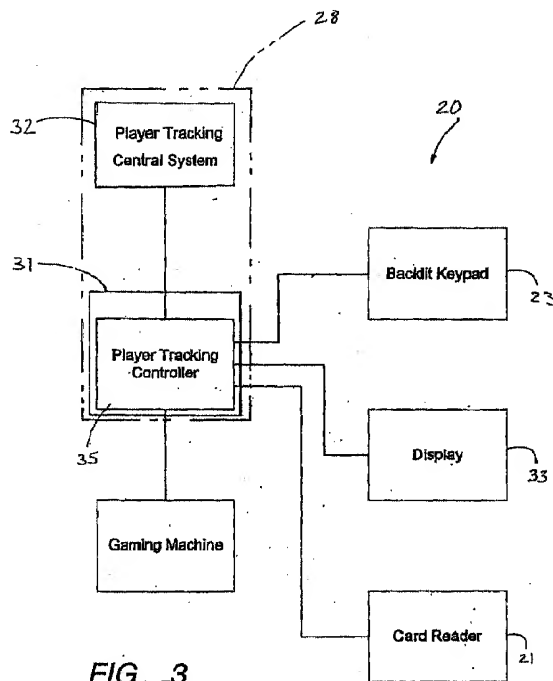


FIG. 3



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 01 10 0279

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Y	US 5 326 104 A (PEASE LOGAN L ET AL) 5 July 1994 (1994-07-05) * abstract * * column 10, line 35 - column 11, line 38 * * ---	1,2,4,5, 8-11, 14-18, 20,21, 25-28, 33-35,37	
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 28 March 2002	Examiner Lindholm, A-M
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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28-03-2002

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